

OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS



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Meet Topsy—a dog with a very special talent. See story on page 6.



ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

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Richard W. Bryant, Associate Editor
Bob Howard, Photo Editor

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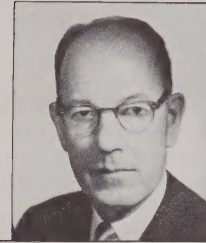
Dedham: 238 Pine Street
Cape Cod: Rte. 6A, E. Brewster 255-1030
Salem: 378 Highland Ave. 744-7910

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from the editor's desk



Nature Knows No Boundaries

What can the individual do about problems that are international in scope?

Legislation as a means of protecting our natural resources has been at best a finger in the dike, for nature—whether seals, whales, birds, or the very air we breathe—knows no national boundaries.

This dilemma is no where more evident and better illustrated than in the complex plight of the harp seal, presented on page four of this issue.

The sale of products from Canadian seals is already illegal in the United States, but while a market exists anywhere in the world, economic motivation for the seal hunt will be strong.

What about writing letters to the Canadian government? Letters certainly help convey the degree and amount of concern aroused by the issue, but letters from American citizens, realistically, have neither economic nor political clout.

And even if voices united in protest moved Canada to call a moratorium on the hunt, would not the Norwegian shippers continue to operate off Canada's coast? And what guarantees would there be that other countries, particularly Russia and Japan, would not attempt to take over the lucrative harvest?

These are just a few examples of issues that cross national boundaries and, we feel, are best dealt with by supporting the international regulatory and protective efforts of the International Society for the Protection of Animals (ISPA).

Through membership in ISPA, the League and other organized and responsible humane societies are directly supporting world-wide efforts to protect the harp seal as well as all other endangered species, throughout the world.

Your membership in the Animal Rescue League of Boston makes you an active participant in ISPA's global effort. Through it, your voice can, and will, be heard—speaking the universal language of compassion.

Carlton E. Buttrick

Carlton E. Buttrick

Update '77: The Harp Seal Hunt

A Matter of Life or Death

This month nearly 200,000 harp seal pups will be clubbed to death and skinned—in their first few weeks of life—in an annual ritual of slaughter that has gone on for almost two centuries, despite escalating controversy and increasing concern for the future of the herd.

The harp seals migrate south each spring from Canada's eastern Arctic and the west coast of Greenland to the ice fields off the coast of Labrador, Newfoundland and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. There the female harp seal gives birth to a single pup, prized by the sealing industry for its snowy white pelt.

Views on the annual seal harvest differ sharply, with little in common between opponents and proponents other than the degree of emotion aroused by the subject.

Humane protection agencies and environmentalists view the seal kill as a lamentable waste of animal life to support a luxury industry, and as a growing danger to the existence of a dwindling herd.

Those who defend the hunt insist that the method of killing is humane, the industry provides the bulk of yearly income for thousands dependent upon it, and a controlled culling of the seal population—which lives on fish—is necessary to maintain an ecologic balance. Furthermore, in the face of past protest, they point to quotas set each year on the catch as adequate protection for the future of the harp seal.

These quotas, though often exceeded and viewed as long overdue by concerned citizens, had been declining steadily since 1971, but this year the kill quota inexplicably has been raised—from 127,000 last year to 170,100—a decision viewed with real alarm by those concerned for the future.

The sealing industry today is largely controlled by Canadian and Norwegian large shippers, with only a few hundred Newfoundland landsmen involved. Most pelts are sent to Europe for transformation into coats, fur trims, bags, etc. The sale of any product made from Canadian seals is illegal in the United States.



The valuable white pelt of the seal pup begins to turn brown as pups mature.

On recommendation from the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), the 1977 quota of 170,110 includes: Canadian large vessels—62,000; Norwegian large vessels—35,000; Gulf of St. Lawrence, landsmen and small vessels—63,000; Greenland and the Canadian Arctic—10,000; with the remaining 100 an allotment for other member countries.

In response to protests in the late 60's from groups which included the International Society for the Protection of Animals (ISPA), with which the Animal Rescue League of Boston is affiliated, the Canadian Minister of Fisheries in 1971 set up a Committee on Seals and Sealing to examine the issues. The result was the steady decline in annual hunting quotas so suddenly reversed this year.

Whether the seal population can stand a kill of 170,000 has been seriously questioned by many, including the chairman of the Committee on Seals and Sealing, Dr. Keith Ronald, dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Guelph. Commenting in his role "as a scientist only", he said, "It is somewhat dangerous to increase the quota." The committee had recommended a quota of no more than 150,000. Last year the same committee had called for a moratorium on all seal hunting except for the aboriginal inhabitants of the Labrador coast.

The numbers game, when played with life and death quotas, is a dangerous one, for no one knows exactly how many seals are left. Only last year some optimistic estimates set the population at more than 1.5 million, but new ultraviolet photographic census techniques have revealed only 700,000 to 800,000, with a pup count lower than 200,000.

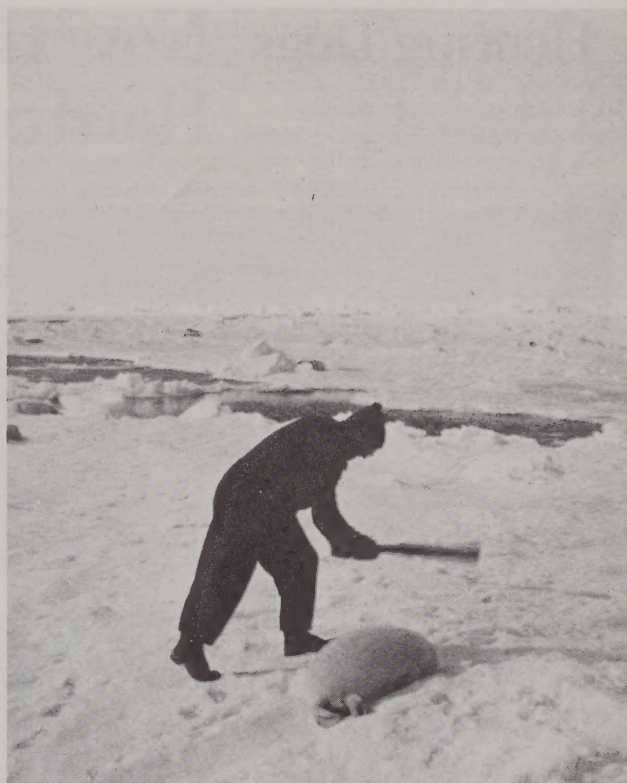
The official opening date of the seal hunt is March 12, but the Fisheries Minister has indicated that the date will be delayed to allow time for another aerial census survey. "It's very important, in fact it's critical, that the seal hunt be held back until after the survey," Dr. Ronald emphasizes. "If it begins before March 12, we won't be able to photograph the seals properly."

Securing accurate information on the size of the herd—and its sustainable yield—is vital, for in the long run it is facts, not emotion, that will motivate human action.

Last year there were highly-publicized protests at the scene of the hunt, and plans are underway for even larger on-the-spot demonstrations this year.

The International Society for the Protection of Animals (ISPA) in the past has felt that the most practical means of effecting change is through negotiations with Canada and Norway, and by having field representatives and scientific advisors on the scene to monitor and legislate humane techniques. With quotas being increased, however, and new evidence that the herd is decreasing, the Animal Rescue League joins ISPA in a growing certainty that a total moratorium on the hunt must be called, and called soon. This is the only way to give scientists the opportunity to collect badly-needed data on the size of the herd, and give the seals a chance to replenish their population.

The future of the harp seals hangs in the balance. Only fast action will halt the shift toward extinction.



Seal hunters use club (above) or Norwegian "hokapik" (below) to kill seal pups.



Hearing Dogs: New Hope--and Help-- for the Hard of Hearing



Tipsy pays a wake-up call on her owner, Jeanne Hoffman.

Tipsy isn't purebred, nor is she a famous performer, but she has won national recognition for a skill that usually brings scolding—a special knack for making a pest of herself.

Named Dog of the Year by the Morris Animal Foundation, Tipsy is one of the first canine graduates of The American Humane Association's pioneering program to train dogs to assist persons with impaired hearing.

There are more than 13,300,000 Americans with hearing problems, including almost two million who are deaf. The inability to detect warning sounds—door bells ringing, babies crying, automobile horns blowing—makes life difficult and often dangerous for those with hearing difficulties. Because of their natural empathy and ability to sense something amiss, dogs are particularly suited as aids for the deaf.

The first program to provide formal training for them in this skill, however, began just last July when The American Humane Association hired Robert J. White, a former teacher of deaf children. His goal? To organize a pilot program to expand "sound awareness" in pets of the deaf, and to test the feasibility of developing "hearing dogs" from among the millions of stray mutts in the nation's dog pounds and shelters.

Tipsy was just such a case, an eight-week old pup abandoned at a Denver shelter, when Mrs. James Hoffman of Denver, who is deaf, adopted her. "From the beginning, her perception was evident. She knew something was different about me, because she stayed with me always, rather than with my husband or son," says Mrs. Hoffman. "Whenever she left me, I knew there was something going on in the house."

One of the first animals enrolled in the AHA program, which currently has a waiting list of 40 persons requesting hearing dogs, Tipsy was an outstanding example of the benefits of formal training.

"When we first got her," says AHA trainer Agnes McGrath, "she was so spoiled that she just cried the whole time." But Tipsy was as smart as she was spoiled, and learned quickly that it was easier to work with the trainer than against her. Tipsy soon moved to the head of her class.

The first known training of a hearing dog occurred in 1968 in Golden, Colorado, where Mr. and Mrs. George Pritchard had their dog Skippy professionally trained to alert their daughter Linda, who was deaf, to sounds such as the telephone, doorbell, banging door or window open in a storm. It wasn't until seven years later though that what would become a national effort began with a request from Elva Janke, a deaf woman in Minnesota, for a trainer who would teach a dog to alert her to dangers. A Minneapolis T.V. news program which she had contacted relayed her need to Ruth Deschene, executive director of the Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. Mrs. Deschene located trainer Agnes McGrath (now with the AHA program) who began working with six hearing dogs.

The program soon attracted so many requests for similar assistance from both individuals and agencies throughout the country that Mrs. Deschene contacted The American Humane Association which assumed national and international responsibility for developing the program.

One of the first steps was a survey of 300 persons with impaired hearing to determine their interest and needs. They were asked if they would like such a dog, if they already had a dog would they be willing to have it trained,

and what were some of the sounds to which they would want their companion to respond?

Respondents to the questionnaire listed babies crying, cars entering the driveway, door knocks and bells, running water, alarm clocks, tea pots whistling and burglar and fire alarms as the sounds which they would most want a canine companion to be able to recognize.

Approximately forty dogs—including 21 that are already pets of deaf volunteers—will have been trained in the first session which began this past October, and consists of about 20 weeks of training. The cost of training each dog is estimated at \$1,500, but there is no charge to the recipient. The first year's budget of \$40,000 has been appropriated from AHA's Dorothy Gray Memorial Fund (established to train homeless animals to assist the handicapped) but the AHA is seeking additional federal and private funds to expand the project.

The first four weeks of training are devoted to standard obedience and response to hand signals. "At the end of four weeks, we can usually tell whether a dog has what it takes to progress through the second phase, 16 weeks of intensive training in sound awareness and reaction," according to Mrs. McGrath.

First attention will be given to priority sounds, according to Robert White who says, "Immediately, we'll train the dogs to respond to alarm clocks and smoke alarms." The dogs will be taught to go to their owners when hearing these and other taught sounds and alert them by tugging at a

pants leg, or running back toward the source of the sound, or using some similarly effective technique to warn its owner that something is happening.

Follow-up studies will also be conducted on the first canine class members to monitor both the animal's effectiveness and the owner's reactions. Much of the effectiveness of the program will depend on training the hearing-impaired persons themselves to give proper hand signals and reward the dog with affection when it responds appropriately, explains Mrs. McGrath. Training a hearing dog is not as difficult as training a guide dog for the blind, nor are the physical standards for the dog as rigid. Since the dog does not have to walk side-by-side with the owner, size is not important, nor breed, only intelligence and temperament.

One of the most exciting aspects of the program from a humane standpoint is the possibility of saving many animals who might otherwise have to be euthanized and enabling them to have a useful, happy existence.

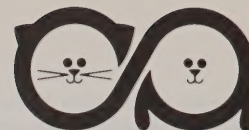
There are even constructive plans for those animals who do not have the aptitude to complete the hearing training program. Dropouts, according to Robert White, will be used in "pet therapy" projects for the elderly, children and possibly the emotionally or mentally handicapped. Colorado's Division of Mental Health, he reports, has expressed interest in using these animals for "pet-facilitated psychotherapy" programs.



Trainer Agnes McGrath demonstrates how hearing dogs alert owners to sound, at the AHA's annual meeting.



Tipsy may not be much of a conversationalist, but she never misses a phone call.



Annual Report 1976

COMBINED RECORD OF ANIMALS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1976 (11 months)

	Dogs	Cats	Horses Mules	Cattle Calves	Sheep Swine	Poultry Birds	Misc.	TOTALS
Shelter Services:								
Collected by Agents	6,946	10,719				184	280	18,129
Brought to Boston Shelter	5,174	6,044				45	228	11,491
Handled at Sheldon Branch (Salem)	2,312	7,075				101	222	9,710
Brought to Dedham Branch	88	222					25	335
Handled by Cape Cod Branch (Brewster)	1,675	1,296				40	110	3,121
	16,195	25,356				370	865	42,786
Of the above 2,780 dogs, 2,101 cats and 72 miscellaneous animals were placed in homes, and 1,924 dogs and 158 cats restored to owners. Balance were humanely destroyed.								
Treated in Clinic	10,484	4,178					54	14,716
Inspected, or Involved in Investigations	5,130	699	10,994	10,968	1,384	3,965	4,417	37,557
Rabies Control Cases	1,183	79					4	1,266
	32,992	30,312	10,994	10,968	1,384	4,335	5,340	96,325
Number of alleged cruelty investigations ... 1,625								

PET PLACEMENT

Arthur G. Slade, Director of Operations

The Adoption Department at Headquarters was successful in placing 1,802 dogs, 1,440 cats and 46 miscellaneous animals during our fiscal year 1976. This work provides many happy experiences for our adoption staff, because it is always fun to watch the new pet owners look through the animals in the placement kennel until that special response and unexplainable chemistry occurs between the adopting owner and the "adoptee". As one new pet owner said, "She is only a mutt, but a very special one." In many ways, this tells the whole story of pet adoptions.

We would also like to share some of the other comments we have received from pet owners which seem to carry the same sentiment:

"HAPPY" is MORE than we could expect in an animal. We all enjoy him tremendously. He is well disciplined, good disposition & had absolutely no problems in adjusting to our home. I was most impressed with the cleanliness and sincere attention and love your staff has for animals."

"We are all very happy with our new member of our family ...she is doing very well, & growing healthy and strong".

"The cat that I adopted absolutely loves his new home, is happy and very healthy. I am very pleased with the animals I get from the Animal Rescue League. I also adopted a beautiful dog there last year. I have much respect for the League".

"The kitten is doing fine and adjusting very well to her new home; both of us are happy and seem to be learning a lot from each other. Your service is excellent and I wish more people would take advantage of it".

"The cat is very well adjusted, it is very affectionate, gets along well with our other cat, is toilet trained, eats well, and is a joy to every member of our family. We extend our gratitude for your concern".

"Our dog has adjusted very well. Now about 5½ mos. old she is trained - bright and very affectionate - seems in good health. We are delighted with her and she seems happy with us."

It is always encouraging to know that another generation of pet lovers and adopting parents is in the making. One of the most moving indications was the following letter from a young friend in Vermont:

Dear Friend:

The money that I am enclosing, I wish that it would go to buying an extra meal for a dog. I saw your ad in the Sunday Boston Globe, and I had this money left over from Christmas so here is my Christmas present to you. I wish all the success to you, and please give this as a meal to a dog or dogs.

Yours truly,
A Friend.

P.S. *I don't want anything in return.* I would adopt a dog if I could, but we already have a German Shephard and I'm only a kid, but some day when I'm older, I will adopt a dog.

Editor's Note: Enclosed with this letter was \$3.75 in coin. No one could receive a finer gift.

Humane Education Department

Richard W. Bryant, Director

Fifty humane educational programs and tours were given for students at League headquarters, with a total attendance of 1,152 students. In addition, another 3,115 students attended presentations given in 23 schools in Massachusetts. Programs featured such topics as the League's goals and services, pet owner responsibility and animal behavior, subjects which were also featured on one radio program and two television shows.

In September, Sarah Friedrichs joined the education department as an instructor. A recent graduate of Boston University where she majored in theatre education, she joined John H. Mayer in presenting the League's marionette programs in Massachusetts schools. Both members of the New England Guild of Puppetry, the

puppeteers adapted the script to "Alladin and the Magic Lamp" for their newest play and presented a total of 64 shows in Massachusetts schools with a cumulative attendance of 18,900. In addition to their regular programs, they also gave two special performances at the League for senior citizens in November.

The League was also represented in a "Desegregation in Education" workshop in April, for Newton teachers; in the Quincy school system program "The Need to Integrate Humane Education into the Classroom Lessons"; as well as an open house for school teachers at the Children's Museum.

Cooperation with other area humane associations was extended through participation in the New England Federation of Humane Societies. At their annual meeting in Hartford in June, Rick Bryant presented a half hour program on humane trapping, and was also elected president of the federation for one year. In this capacity, he assisted in presenting a half-day training program in June for firemen and stable owners on fire safety and first aid for horses, and helped organize and operate New England Federation of Humane Societies' "Animal Handler Workshop" for approximately 80 Massachusetts dog officers and humane society employees.

Educational activities for the general community included the release of "Pet Care Corner" articles to fifty newspapers, twice a month throughout the year. The department also organized a "Pet Adoption Day" sponsored by the League and the Wellesley Junior High School student council. Eighteen animals were placed in new homes.

An innovative lesson plan was developed by John Mayer in cooperation with Alicia Mitchell, an art instructor in Somerville public school system. Combining mime, humane education and art in classes at the Brown and Cutler schools, the new approach to teaching humane education was developed for use by art teachers and other interested educators.

In addition to publication of the quarterly magazine "Our Fourfooted Friends," the department also distributed thousands of pet care pamphlets to public school systems throughout the United States. Humane educational films were also lent to schools and recognized groups.

The newsletter "Paws and Claws" was also published monthly and sent to members of the junior "Animal Friends Club", which now numbers approximately 1,000 members.

Other ongoing departmental activities included a series of six-week dog obedience training programs given almost continuously from October to June; and operation and staffing of the League's Pet Care Information Center at the Children's Zoo.

As Trustee of the Baxendale Memorial Foundation, the League once again conducted its popular Animal Friends Summer School program on Cape Cod. During two three-week sessions at the unique summer camp, approximately 400 youngsters attended classes in dog obedience training, pet care, farm animals, native wildlife, marine ecology, nature photography, hand puppetry, chickens and ducks, recycling for fun, and woodworking. A highlight of the summer program was the League's annual Pet Show in North Falmouth, where over 150 youngsters and their pets enjoyed a morning of fun and prizes.

In addition, the League hosted fifty inner-city Boston youngsters for a week in June at the summer school. This program concluded the animal care courses conducted during the school year for students of the Charles E. Mackey School.

An "animal life" course was also developed for an eighth grade biology class at the Mackey School, in the course of which the class spends two hours a week studying animal protection, pet care, native wildlife, marine ecology, farm animals and exotic animal life. Some of the places visited included the Holliston Junior College, Boston Police horse stables, Elbanobscott Foundation in Sudbury, Audubon's Drumlin Farm in Lincoln and the New England Aquarium.

A shorter "animal friends" course is also currently being conducted for all seven sixth grades of the Mackey School. This course focuses on the proper care of pets and the responsibilities involved in pet ownership.

Through an active volunteer program, 10 students—including juniors and seniors in high school and college students—this year are gaining valuable experience in the humane field. They spend time in the veterinary clinic, lost and found department, pet adoption center, and the education department.

Lost and Found

Arthur G. Slade, Director of Operations

The Lost and Found office is one of the busiest spots in our shelter operations. The staff is constantly receiving lost and unwanted pets, exhausting all efforts to locate their families and returning as many as possible. In 1976, 1,285 such animals were reunited with concerned owners. These 1,285 animals were indeed lucky to have been assisted by our Lost and Found efforts, but we should also point out that many other animals were never claimed by the persons who at one time gave them a home. This is the saddest of all comments on the society in which we live. All of our readers can help in this problem by impressing on everyone they know the importance of owner responsibility.

The appreciation which has been expressed by many of our friends for our Lost and Found efforts can be summed up in the following letter:

"The donation is in recognition of the fine job your Lost and Found department accomplishes. Once I found a dog with a rabies tag. The veterinary hospital was uncooperative in tracking down the ownership of the dog. It took an Animal Rescue League person to convince the hospital to go through the trouble of searching their records.

Last week I lost one of my dogs - of all places I called, your staff was the most helpful and most friendly. I found my dog through another source, but it was great to know that you were there."

COLLECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE (operations)

The collection of stray and unwanted animals and the rescue of many animals in distress or need has kept this department busy with 15,432 calls during fiscal 1976.

There are always the calls for trapped animals and the tragic cases of ones injured on the highways. Each one has its own circumstances and details that make it special to the persons involved. Some have happy endings and some are sad to the point of being tragic. Last February, agent Peter Faux was on emergency duty on a Sunday when a call came in that a dog had fallen through thin ice in the Mystic channel in Charlestown near Boston Harbor. With the aid of a Coast Guard patrol boat and the Boston Fire Department, the aged dog was plucked from the icy water and taken to our shelter. The dog was returned to its home the next morning.

Sometimes agents are led on a merry chase by certain animals who just don't want to be caught. Such a case was a young bull that ran loose in a residential area of Dedham last June. In true Ferdinand the Bull fashion, he only wanted to munch a few lawns and enjoy the spring flowers, but this habit was distressing to many residents and thus, in due time, he was captured and returned to his own pasture by our agents and Dedham police officers.

INSPECTION AND INVESTIGATION (operations)

Our inspectors have traveled all over eastern Massachusetts in response to 1,625 complaints, and involving 37,557 animals. Throughout their travels, they have also inspected all types of animals wherever they are kept or used. Such locations include pet shops, stables, farms, livestock auctions, kennels, fairs and circus acts.

Many people think of the League mainly in regard to its work with small pet animals, but the table in this report

shows that our Inspectors serviced 23,246 farm animals and many of the miscellaneous animals were exotic and circus animals.

This Department worked closely with the Boston Police in Dorchester on a dog stealing case which involved theft of guard dogs by a group of young boys. The case culminated in the conviction of the boys in juvenile court.

Inspectors have also spent much of their time in the investigation of complaints in connection with our contract for dog control in Boston. This entails both field investigations and court appearances. Several court cases have been for the operation of illegal kennels and some have had a cruelty aspect in addition to the animal control problems.

The Quarantine Inspection and Control Department actively sought out 1,266 cases of biting animals and quarantined and released these animals to protect the residents of Boston as well as the animal life of the City. It is encouraging to report that no active cases of rabies were found.

During the 1976 Christmas season, our Inspectors joined forces to deliver 492 Christmas dinners to deserving horses in the greater Boston area as has been their custom for so many years. We are grateful to the Blue Seal Feed Company for donating the half ton of horse feed used for these holiday treats.

LIVESTOCK CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Alan D. Goldman, Director

The Livestock Conservation Department, which conducts programs of health and safety for all classes of livestock, was busy in all six New England states during the past year, presenting programs to 4-H groups, vocational agricultural students, university students, livestock producers, transportation personnel, markets and abattoir management. It has provided by mail, information on disease problems for as far west as Arizona and as far south as Florida.

The department has published a number of booklets designed to prevent livestock losses and has manned displays at several fairs and association meetings. Subjects of exhibits ranged from livestock conservation to owning a backyard horse. Over one million people were reached through these displays at the Big E in Springfield, the Augusta Agricultural Trade Show and various breed organization meetings.

"Ag-Northeast," the bi-monthly publication of New England Livestock Conservation, Inc. (N.E.L.C.I.), is gaining greater popularity in New England agriculture. Two breed organizations in New England have adopted "Ag-Northeast" as their official publications, stimulating membership in N.E.L.C.I.

Director Alan Goldman addressed Connecticut's Department of Agriculture, urging the adoption of regulations governing the transportation of horses. The bill, which has become law, was drafted from the guidelines established in the League's pamphlet, "Trucking Horses".

ANIMAL CLINIC

Natalie L. Knowles, D.V.M.
Director, Veterinary Medicine

As in past years, the League's clinic continued to function in an important role devoted to animal care. Many of the common afflictions of pets such as one might encounter in any busy small animal practice, were handled as out-patients by the veterinary staff. In fact, over the period of eleven months, 14,721 pets were provided health care and treatment.

Also, as the pet population explosion continues, so does the importance of the League's spay and neuter program. In the fiscal year (11 months) just ended, 1,450 animals were spayed, while another 703 male pets were neutered, for a grand total of 2,153 dogs and cats sterilized. This is not a new program, but one that the League has been quietly conducting for many, many years.

Our spay and neuter program, coupled with minor surgery and fracture repair, examination and treatment of sick pets, and immunization against the various viral diseases of animals, has kept our staff extremely busy. This is particularly true when it is noted that the veterinary staff also is responsible for the health care of the thousands of animals sheltered at our headquarters last year.

SHELDON BRANCH, Salem, Mass.

Sherman Bates, Manager

As usual, the League's Sheldon Branch has been the scene of busy activity during the eleven month period of this report. Maintained in spotless condition, the shelter and office facilities are an attractive place in which to visit, look for a new pet and, when that day comes, to give up an old or ill pet for humane disposal.

An indication of this activity is reflected by the fact that 2,312 dogs, 7,075 cats and kittens, and 323 miscellaneous animals and birds were handled by the Sheldon Branch. Since this Branch is not responsible for any animal control duties, the 9,710 animals represented a total given up by owners. Of this number, 773 dogs and 513 cats were adopted into new homes. Unfortunately, our adoption rate was reduced by some 33% from the previous year, due, we believe, to the opening of a pet adoption center by another animal welfare society within a quarter of a mile of the League shelter. It would appear it would have benefitted both organizations if this Society had sought a location in not such close proximity to the League.

It is worthy of note that Sherman Bates celebrated 50 years of service with the League during the year, and was presented the Anna Harris Smith Award for his gentle understanding and help given to thousands of animals during those years.

DEDHAM BRANCH

Arthur W. Foster, Supt.

Although deep snow covers the some 20 acres of the League's Dedham Branch as this is written, as spring arrives there will be great activity to restore the grounds and Pine Ridge Cemetery from the rigors of winter. Carrying out these duties will be Arthur W. Foster (who in 1976 celebrated 40 years as a League employee), assisted by Michael Thomas and Alfred LoConte. It is these three men who are responsible for maintaining the beauty and serenity of this spot, and as any visitor who walks around the well-kept grounds will testify, they do their job well.

Perhaps it was the beauty and peacefulness of Pine Ridge that attracted 90 people to select it as the last resting place of a beloved pet. An additional 91 pets were cremated, and the ashes of 25 buried in this lovely place - a place that is truly a garden of memories.

The Branch also received 335 live animals during this eleven month period, which were either put up for adoption or humanely destroyed.

CAPE COD BRANCH, Brewster, Mass.

Donald Westover, Manager

The League's Cape Cod Branch continues to do not only an excellent job of caring for the many unwanted pets given up by owners but, also a most effective job as animal control officer and pound for several of the Lower Cape communities. How effective is illustrated by the figures for the eleven months ending December 31st that the League served as Animal Control Officer for the towns of Brewster, Chatham and Orleans. Of 420 stray dogs cared for at our shelter, 378, or a whopping 90% were returned to owners. Some 466 citations were issued, 63 court appearances were made by Mr. Westover or his assistant, Mr. Farrell, all of which resulted in the collection of \$4,179 in fines which were kept by the respective towns.

The Brewster shelter also serves as the pound for five other towns. Strays from these communities numbered 528, of which 404, or 76% were returned to owners, 21 adopted and 86 destroyed.

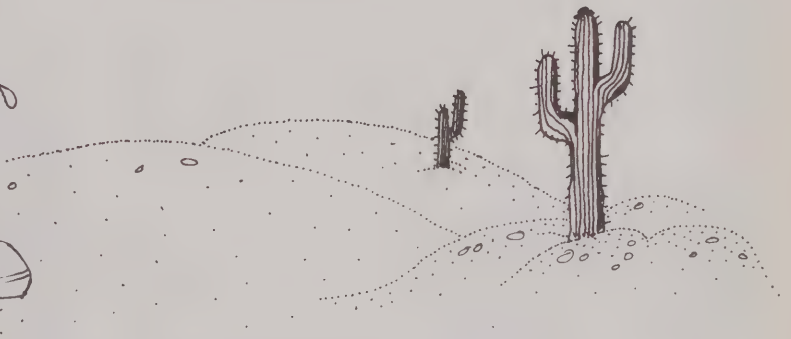
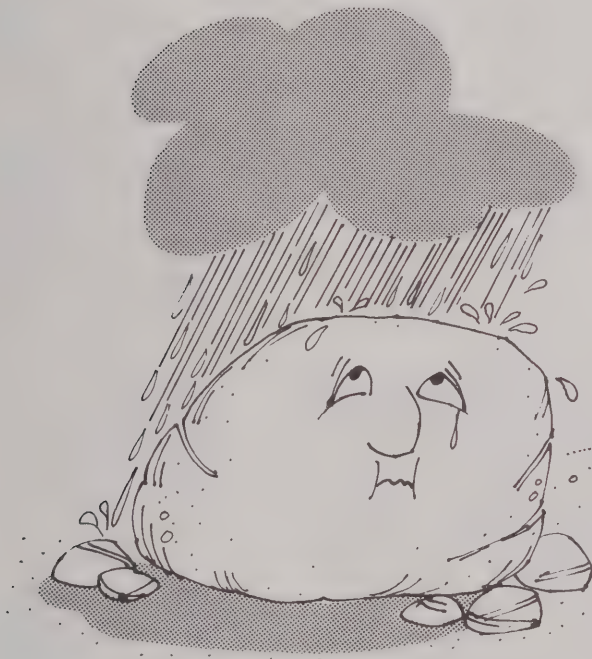
People usually think of our shelter and personnel as handling only dogs and cats. Far from it. Last year at this Branch, the following creatures were cared for: 37 birds, 6 skunks, 30 raccoons, 4 hamsters, 7 guinea hens, 26 rabbits, 11 hens and roosters, 9 mice, 4 ducks, 6 gerbils, 2 snakes, 2 squirrels, 1 sheep, 1 goose, 1 seal, 1 fawn, and 2 goats. A real Noah's Ark of 150 animals. Of this diverse group, 36 were placed in homes, 40 released to their natural habitat, 2 returned to the original owner, 6 turned over to other agencies and the balance humanely destroyed.

Our Cape Cod Branch also has served as a learning center for young people. Shadow students are using our facilities for educational purposes. So, too are Alternative Learning Program students from the Nauset Regional High School, and students from the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School. We believe this bodes well for the future.

All in all, it has been a busy eleven months.

DON'T KNOCK THE ROCK!

by Margaret Poynter



Rockhounds all over the country have become concerned about the number of pet rocks which have apparently been abandoned by their owners. These rocks are being found along roadways, in vacant lots, and on neighbors' lawns.

Evidently, owning a pet rock is no longer the "in" thing to do, and now that the craze has died down, the owners don't want the responsibility and the expense of caring for them.

Geologists and other interested observers have been observing what happens when these pets are abandoned. Once a rock has been removed from its natural habitat and has become domesticated, it is seldom able to return to the wild. Soft living and the convenience of civilization quickly render them vulnerable to the wind, rain and harsh rays of the sun, since their protective coats deteriorate in captivity.

There is not only a physical danger. Dr. Reginald Brimstone in his journal titled, "Rocks: A Definitive Physical and Psychological Profile," expounds upon the importance of security to the domesticated rock:

"A pet rock which is thrown out of a home situation and forced to cope with the elements of a strange environment may very well crumble under the unfamiliar pressures. It may have lost the instinct to defend itself against its natural

enemies. Religious zealots fling them at sinners and they are constantly disturbed by perfectionists who will leave no stone unturned. In one particularly brutal case an abandoned pet rock was discovered by a young boy who followed it and brutally kicked it for a total of three blocks. It was a totally shattering experience and the rock cracked under the strain.

"I, myself, have seen twenty-three pet rocks which were completely stoned. They had gone off their rockers and succumbed to the lure of drugs and alcohol."

If it becomes impossible for you to care for your pet rock, or if your landlord will not allow you to have one, please do not abandon it. Seek alternative solutions. Perhaps you can find someone who lives in a glass house. Certainly if they see you are throwing it out, they will offer to take it off your hands.

The best solution would be to see if your community has a R.O.C. group (Rock Owner: Care). These groups will care for your rock and try to find a home for it. Their neighbors might object to the establishment of such an organization. However, when they think of the alternatives ... piles of gravel on their lawns, young boys with sling-shots ... they will welcome anyone who will gather them in off the streets.

Reprinted from:
Modern Secretary, L.E. Muran Co.

American Humane Association Honors League Officials

Three ARL staff members and a League director were honored by The American Humane Association at the AHA's 100th annual meeting, held recently in Denver.

Awards for long and outstanding service in the humane movement were presented to:

Sherman N. Bates, manager of the Sheldon Branch in Salem, and recipient of the AHA's jeweled 50-year service pin. Mr. Bates, who joined the League staff in 1926 and managed its Lynn branch from 1947 to 1964, was also presented with ARL's highest honor, the Anna Harris Smith Award, named in memory of the League's founder. He is the second employee in the League's history to have given over half a century of dedicated service.

Arthur W. Foster, superintendent of the Dedham Branch and Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals, recipient of The AHA's 40-year service award. A member of the staff since 1936, he was promoted to supervisor of ARL's Albany St.

shelter in 1946, and the following year was named to the post he now holds.

Earl E. Wentzel, League vice president and recipient of The AHA's 30-year service award. Starting in 1946 as an inspector at the Brighton stockyards, he served successively as League representative with the New England Livestock Association, humane education representative and, from 1953-58, as assistant to the president at which time he was elevated to his present position.

Philip W. Trumbull, director and past chairman of the board, recipient of AHA's 25-year service pin. A vice president of State Street Bank and Trust Co., he has given unstintingly of his time since his election as assistant treasurer of the League in 1950. He was elected a director in 1952 and two years later was elected treasurer, a post which he held for sixteen years. In 1970 he became chairman of the board—a post in which he served until last June.



Receiving service awards from Dr. Carlton E. Buttrick (left) and John C. Hatch (right), chairman of the board, are (from left to right): Sherman N. Bates, Arthur W. Foster and Earl E. Wentzel. Not present at the award ceremony was Philip W. Trumbull (top right). Messrs. Wentzel, Foster and Trumbull received the League's Meritorious Service Award.

Pets in the Picture

SOLID COMFORT - One month old Stacy Ann Morin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Morin of Quincy, Mass. relaxes in total confidence against a friendly, if furry, pillow—Sir George Quincy (just a youngster himself at eleven months of age). The photo was submitted by Mrs. Albert Chabot of Lynn, Mass.

Ed. Note: Do you have an appealing candid photo of your pet? Beginning with this issue, Our Fourfooted Friends will run Pets in the Picture as a regular feature, so if you'd like your pet in print, just mail a photo together with full caption information to: *Our Fourfooted Friends*, Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O.Box 265, Boston, Mass. 02117.



In the Mailbox

Our Fourfooted Friends December editorial, titled "The Business of Viewpoints" and emphasizing the humane society's primary role as a voice speaking not for society, nor for the pet-owner, but on behalf of the animal itself, brought unprecedented reader response.

In addition to many phone calls expressing interest in the viewpoints presented, the League also received several thought-provoking letters from readers, two of which are reprinted below:

Dear Dr. Buttrick:

In reference to your editorial "Viewpoints" in the December 1976 issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends*, I would like to express another viewpoint.

I am the Animal Control Officer for the town of Braintree and as a member of the lower echelon of the world of animal concern, I generally held the opinion that all members of the higher echelon lived in a dream world, dealing in great generalities that were of no practical use; that the man in the street was the only one who really knew what was going on. After reading your "Viewpoints", I confess to being dead wrong.

Thank you, Dr. Buttrick, for saying what I feel. It was heart warming and wonderful to me to hear it said by you.

Have a good day,
Bob Dawes
Braintree, Mass.

Dear Mr. Buttrick:

I want to tell you how much your editorial, the business of viewpoints, interested and enlightened me ... You are so right! Who really helps both the people and the animals when we need it ... the Animal Rescue League always comes to the rescue, like on December 24th when I had to call the League to help me out.

I hope more people will realize as I do the help you give ... most of the newer societies are animal welfare action organizations—they have no shelters, no clinic or hospital, no investigators, no vehicles, no education department, no animals' food to buy, no drugs to purchase, no capital investments to depreciate ... just vocal with a good press ... I have learned from twenty years how good and dependable you are.

Happy & healthy New Year,
Mrs. Mary Burgess
Everett, Mass.



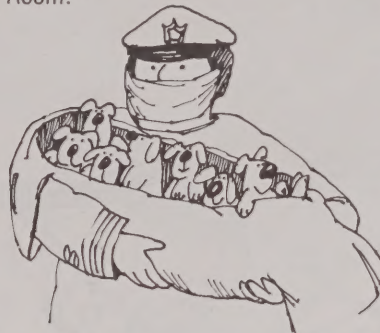
The following poem was submitted by Lilian Salamone, Needham, Mass., who wrote it in memory of her dog, Tommy, a black fox terrier that died at the age of 15 and is buried in the Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals.

TOMMY

To the dearest dog the world has ever known
After fifteen years he sure has shown
His love and loyalty to those he knew
The world's greatest friend, so kind and true.

A Special Delivery for Cambridge Police

When a stray unlicensed mongrel found wandering in Central Square was brought to the Cambridge, Mass. police station, police dog officer Joseph Thomas was about to take it to the local shelter when it became obvious that maternity was imminent. Within a hectic three-quarters of an hour, Thomas helped deliver seven healthy pups—with each arrival announced over police radio to an audience of interested patrolmen in cruisers. The whole family, now including four male and three female pups, were provided with blankets, milk, dog food and overnight shelter at the police station, in a comfortable box marked "Police Maternity Room."



Dog Keeps Vigil for his Buddy

When a stray dog was killed by a car on a Chicago street this winter, nobody stopped except his buddy and traveling companion, a German Shepherd pup. He sat down beside his dead companion and refused to budge for three days, despite the efforts of neighbors who called to him, offered food and water and made vain attempts to get close enough to remove the dead animal. At night he howled "like he was crying from his heart", said one neighbor, and by day he lay beside his dead buddy and licked his feet. His weekend vigil ended only when, approached by both police and dog catchers, he ran away, ducked between some houses and disappeared. "How many people do you know who would do that for a friend?" asked one local resident.



Nations Work Together to Save Endangered Species

Progress on implementing an international treaty on endangered species was reported at a 37-nation meeting held this winter in Berne, Switzerland. Aimed at eliminating commercial trade as a cause in decline of endangered wild animals and plants, the treaty has been ratified by 33 nations.

The convention agreed to over 100 changes in the appendices of listed endangered species and the changes become effective in the U.S. later this year. Among the new provisions are: restriction on importation of all sea turtle species for activities such as manufacture of jewelry, cosmetics or decorative goods; restriction on importation of rhinoceroses (including hunting trophies); the addition of all chimpanzees, lemurs and five species of marmosets to those animals which cannot be imported into this country for commercial purposes (all other primates not already restricted can be imported only with an export permit from country of origin).



NEWSFRONT

Meet Mr. Keane — Tracer of Lost Pooches

A former Wall Street stock broker named John Keane has set up what he describes as the world's first dog detective agency. Located in Oakland, Calif., the firm, consisting of Keane and his shaggy sheepdog partner, Paco, specializes in organizing hound hunts for pets reported missing by their owners. What's the name of the dog-gone detective agency? Sherlock Bones, of course!



Key to Animal Birth Control: Is It Meals—or Males?

A contraceptive dog food may be on the market next year, if the Carnation Company gets FDA approval of the product which has been tested for one year on 300 dogs in eight major cities. Results of the test indicated that the food, which contains Mibolerone (a drug that prevents bitches from coming into heat), proved an effective means of birth control when administered daily. With a change of diet, the dogs resumed normal cycles and gave birth to healthy litters when bred.

Meanwhile spaying and neutering remain the only currently effective means of long-term control and scientists—aware that even the effectiveness of contraceptive dog food depends on the daily attention of the dog's owner—continue to search for new answers. To date, most studies have involved the female dog but recently a group of scientists at Southern Illinois University's new school of medicine has begun a study involving the male dog's reproductive system, in hopes of finding an effective and humane alternative for preventing conception.

Rabies Study Reported

A three-year study of reported cases of rabies in dogs in the U.S. shows that though the number of cases had declined to about 200 a year, those cases are seen primarily in owned, but unvaccinated animals, and dog bites remain the major cause for humans having to undergo anti-rabies treatment.

From 1971-73, some 629 cases of rabies in dogs were reported with concentration in the Appalachian area, the upper Mississippi basin, Texas and Louisiana, a pattern that follows closely the distribution of rabid skunks and foxes. Ownership status was determined for 455 of the 629—87% of the dogs' owners were identified, 13% were either stray or had unknown owners. Fear of legal consequences, it was noted, may have stopped some owners from acknowledging a rabid pet. Humans were exposed to infection in 75% of the cases where such information was available.

In only 60 cases did owners claim that the animal had been vaccinated, but ten of these had no proof of vaccination and, in another 30 cases, vaccinations were either outdated, administered at too young an age, or the disease was contracted before the shot could take effect.

Meet the ARL Puppeteers



Sarah Friedrichs and John Mayer, instructors in the League's education department, use marionettes to teach humane attitudes to school children throughout Massachusetts.

Animal Friends Summer School

Operated by the League, as trustees of the Baxendale Memorial Foundation, the Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet, Cape Cod, offers youngsters a wide range of experiences focusing on pets, dog training, farm animals, wildlife and marine ecology. This unique day camp, accredited by the American Camping Association, will begin its 28th season:

Session I: July 4 to July 23

Session II: July 25 to August 12

PET SHOW: Saturday, July 30

The half-day sessions are divided into two age groups and are open to all youngsters who have *completed* the first grade and up to 15 years of age.

For more information, contact the Camp's director:

Richard Bryant
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, Massachusetts 02117

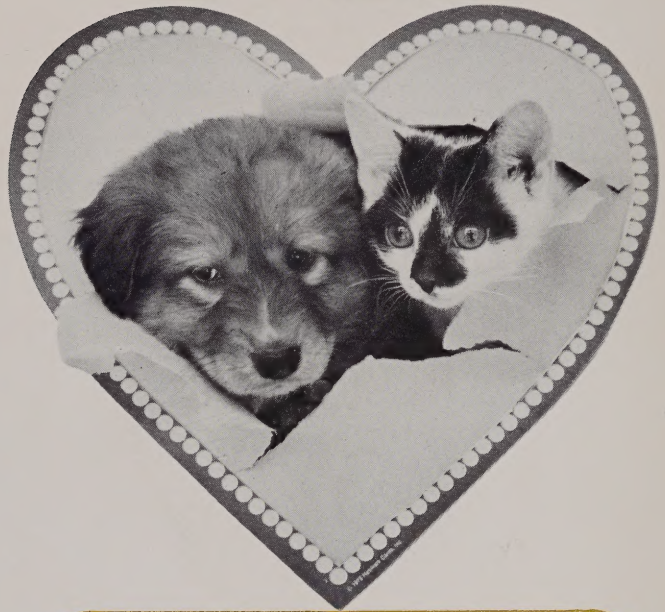
Red Cross Recognizes Role of AHA in Disaster Relief

After many months of work and negotiations, the American Red Cross has named The American Humane Association as "the national federation of humane societies responsible for the welfare and protection of animals, including disaster relief."

An eight-point agreement, signed just prior to The AHA's 100th annual meeting, officially recognizes the AHA as an essential part of the national disaster relief program, allowing them to enter a disaster area right along with the Red Cross so that animals and people can be evacuated together.

In the agreement, the AHA accepts responsibility for coordinating animal relief through local animal shelters; or set up a temporary shelter—including the provision of shelter, food and medical attention; and expend all efforts to reunite animals with their owners subsequent to a disaster.

FRIENDS IN NEED OF FRIENDS



**Come to the
Animal Rescue League of Boston's**

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday

April 27, 1977 • 2:30 P.M.

at

**League Headquarters Auditorium
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Streets
Boston, Mass.**

Annual Meeting & Election of Directors

Please join and help

Please enroll me as a member (or donor) of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. I enclose payment of dues for the class of membership checked below:

- ☐ Patron, \$500.00
- ☐ Life, \$100.00
- ☐ Supporting, \$35.00 annually
- ☐ Active, \$10.00 annually
- ☐ Associate, \$5.00 annually
- ☐ Donor, Any amount

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date _____

Please mail your magazine, Our Fourfooted Friends, to the address given above.
(\$1 of membership fee covers subscription)

**Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117**





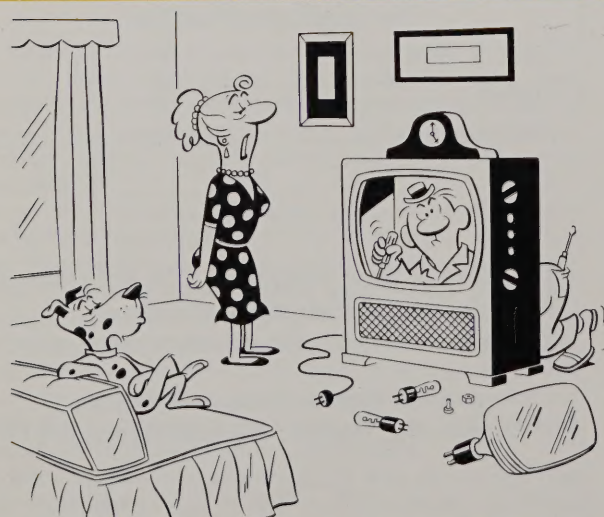
Animal Rescue League of Boston

P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Canine Chuckles



"WHAT OTHER TRICKS DOES HE KNOW?"



"WOULD YOU MIND BARKING OCCASIONALLY?
HE'S USED TO WATCHING **LISSIE** AT THIS TIME."



"HE LIKES YOU."